



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation

2360 Hwy D

St. Charles, MO 63304

www.mdc.mo.gov

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date...

21 Kids' Fishing Fair

Saturday

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 15 & under) Let us help you teach your kids to fish! Visit the booths to learn the ins and outs of fishing and then give them the chance to catch a fish. Bring your own fishing equipment. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. (No reservations necessary.)



For Busch and Henges Range information and activities, please call (636) 441-4554 for a free subscription to *Conservation Connections*.

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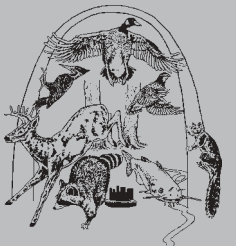


Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

May 2005

Volume 05, Number 05



Wildlife Management Basics

By Erin Shank, Urban Wildlife Biologist

Managing wildlife can be a dirty job. Wildlife managers are essentially land managers, making things happen on the ground to improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed burning, restoring old fields, building brush piles, wetland flooding and drawdown, edge feathering, disking, planting food plots and removing invasive plants like honeysuckle are just a few of the practices that help to improve wildlife habitat.

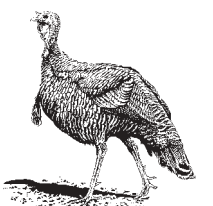
In general, wildlife management focuses on improving and maintaining habitat for native wildlife species. Wildlife managers aim to provide the food, cover, water and nesting space wildlife need to survive. Proper land evaluation and planning are needed before applying management practices to ensure that the right actions are taken at the right time to meet the desired outcome. In other words, wildlife managers first look at land to see what's already there; for example: is it wet, dry, wooded or open? They take inventory, then decide what they hope to accomplish. They might want to restore a grassland or prairie, develop a wetland or restore bottomland hardwoods. Depending on the goal, they'll employ certain practices.

Wildlife management can mean different things to different people. Ask folks of different generations what wildlife management is, and you're likely

to get a wide spectrum of answers. That's because wildlife management has changed a lot over the past 100 years. One of the basic characteristics that makes wildlife management so fascinating is the ever-evolving understanding of wildlife, habitats and the relationship between humans and the environment making wildlife management a constantly changing practice.

Wildlife managers also manage people and their activities on an area. In order to protect habitat, wildlife managers must think about conservation activities on their land and setting regulations. For instance, some public properties are popular spots to go for deer hunting, and special regulations must be set on those areas to ensure a healthy population from year to year. Other areas are favorites for bird watching or photographing wildflowers, and the benefits to people are calculated into wildlife management practices on those areas. Ultimately, wildlife management restores and improves Missouri habitats for the benefit of native wildlife populations and the enjoyment of people.

For additional information contact your local MDC office or visit us online at www.mdc.mo.gov.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

3 **Moms & Babes**
Tuesday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(Ages 2-6) “Mommy, do baby rabbits sleep in a crib like me?” Moms have definitely been asked this and similar questions. So join us in exploring the moms and babes of our native wildlife through games, books and more. *Naturalist: KyLee Brockmann.* (Reservations begin April 18.)



7 **Lewis Hike**
Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Adults) Join us for a refreshing spring hike through the forests of Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will look for wildflowers and songbirds. This is a good time to see and hear both migrating and resident songbirds. The 8.3-mile hike offers panoramic views of the Missouri River valley from bluffs along the trail. *Naturalist: Marvin Staloch.* (Reservations begin April 25.)

7 **Wildflower Walk**
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(All Ages) Shake off the cobwebs and join us on this easy saunter within the Busch Conservation Area to see colorful prairie flora. We will hike at an easy pace for plenty of botanizing to view early bloomers along the trails and share some “flower folklore.” *Naturalist: Gladys Kullman.* (Reservations begin April 25.)

10 **... And All That Rot**
Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7–12) Do you know what happens to plants and animals after they die? Come and learn about the process of decomposition and why it is essential to all living things. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin April 26.)

14 **Hummingbirds**
Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 2-4) What is the only bird that can fly backwards? Hummm...I wonder! Come, have fun and learn about these aerial acrobats. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin May 2.)



17 **The Classifieds**
Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7–12) Can you list the differences among the five major vertebrate groups? Join us as we explore how scientists classify animals into different groups based on their similarities and differences. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin May 3.)

Busch Volunteer Milestones	
Aaron Jungbluth.....	100 hours
Angie Naughton.....	100 hours
Glenn Senter.....	300 hours
Trish Senter.....	300 hours
Joe Veras.....	300 hours
Doug Robb.....	1000 hours
Ed Leutwiler.....	1250 hours
Dot Niemeyer.....	3000 hours

19 **Snakes and Lizards – Yucky or Cool?**
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) How many “poisonous” snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Come and discover the answers to these questions while learning about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. You will be able to observe live snakes and even touch some! Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can study any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin May 5.)

21 **Kids’ Fishing Fair**
Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 15 & under) Let us help you teach your kids to fish! Visit the booths to learn the ins and outs of fishing and then give them the chance to catch a fish. Bring your own fishing equipment. A limited number of loaner poles will be available. (No reservations necessary.)

26 **Goodness Snakes Alive!**
Thursday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 4-6) Are snakes slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and catch their food? Learn the answers to these questions and lots of other neat stuff about snakes. You will be able to see live snakes found in Missouri and even touch some! Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can study any snakes in their natural habitat. *Naturalist: Ed Leutwiler.* (Reservations begin May 12.)

WOW St. Louis! To Light Up Forest Park June 18

“Bringing Families Together, Naturally”

Do you have dreams of canoeing down a Missouri River, or camping out overnight in one of our state’s beautiful conservation areas or parks? Or do you want to try your hand at photographing birds, flowers, or other wonders of nature? Maybe you simply want to bring a bit of nature into your home with an arrangement you design using natural materials. If so, Wonders of the Outdoor World-WOW St. Louis! is a great place to start.

If you want to become more familiar with outdoor recreation and skills, you can join more than 100 others expected to gather in Forest Park June 18 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. for WOW St. Louis!, a family event designed to teach beginners outdoor skills and safety – in the heart of the city.

WOW St. Louis! is an annual event sponsored by Bas Pro Sports Shops and presented in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis Division of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, St. Louis County Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

WOW St. Louis! offers a variety of classes, taught by skilled and knowledgeable professionals from the sponsoring organizations. The purpose of the program is to teach participants how to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while practicing personal safety and outdoor responsibility. The program is designed to meet the interests and skill levels of participants.

The event is targeted to families, and all activities are suitable for ages ranging from 9 years to adult. A separate Children’s Day Camp will be held at the Kennedy Forest area for 4-8 year olds. Youngsters will get their own taste of outdoor fun – literally and figuratively – as their parents and older siblings hone skills in archery, outdoor cooking, canoeing or “pond life.” Troops and leaders from the Girls Scout Council of Greater St. Louis will lead the Children’s Day Camp. Participants will do their own outdoor cooking, as well as make crafts to take home, play outdoor games, go on a nature hike/scavenger hunt and visit the St. Louis Zoo.

Registration for the event is \$20 per family, which includes a choice of three classes per participant. Free registration is available to families who qualify. For more information, contact Carlotta Lewis at (314) 340-5794. Registration will begin April 15 and continue through June 3, however space is limited, so early registration is suggested. Transportation assistance via public transportation is also available.

WOW St. Louis! will offer the following ten class choices: Archery, Nature, Photography, Backpacking, Camping, and basic Cooking, Canoeing, Rock-Climbing, The Nature of Woodworking, Nature’s Arrangements, Fishing, Beginning Orienteering, Exploring Pond-life and Dutch Oven Cooking.

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

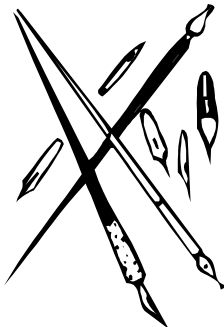
For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

21 Scout Discovery Table: Endangered Species
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Brownies, Juniors, Bears) We know that the passenger pigeon is extinct and the bald eagle is endangered, but what about the wolf, bison and barn owl? Discover which animals are extinct, endangered and rare. **Bears:** Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement #5e; **Brownies:** Eco-explorer #5; **Juniors:** Wildlife #6. *Naturalists: Karen Kelly & Jean Favara.* (No reservations necessary.)

27 Homeschool Special: Beginning Birding
Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Homeschool) Have you ever wanted to figure out which birds hang out in the trees near your home? Come join us as we teach your family the basics of identifying birds, how to use binoculars and how to use a field guide when you spot them flying around. We'll do a little bird watching at our feeders and then head out on a 1-mile hike. After our hike, we'll head back to the Visitors Center to make our own birdfeeders to start learning to ID birds from your home window. The trail is not stroller accessible. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin May 13.)



28 Nature's Art
Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12 Homeschoolers) If you attended Nature Journaling last month, please bring your journal and celebrate spring by learning to draw. Nature and your journals will be your inspiration as you sketch your artwork. Artwork will be displayed at Rockwoods. *Naturalist: Glenda Myers.* (Reservations begin May 16.)



28 May Jaunt
Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 5 & up Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Family and Friends) Come join us in this adventurous hike to search for wildlife clues and other signs. We will go exploring in the streams, the woods and caves. Dress for the weather and be prepared to hike in a rugged terrain. You sure will have a great time! *Naturalist: Sheri Medlocks.* (Reservations begin May 13.)

Conservation Day Camp
June 6-10
OR
June 27-July 1

(Ages 7-12) Do you want your kids to have a fun time while learning about conservation? Send them to our Conservation Day Camp! Your child will learn about Missouri wildlife through outdoor adventures including fishing, hiking and more.

The first two days will be at Busch Conservation Area and the last three days will be at Rockwoods Reservation. Your child will need to pack a lunch each day, but snacks and drinks will be provided. Each day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. The camp costs \$65 per participant. If you'd like more information or would like to up sign your child, please call Shanna Raeker at (636) 300-1953 ext. 327. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on May 9. No exceptions.

Rockwoods Reservation Volunteer Milestones

Bob Ziegler.....300 hours
Sally Roberts.....750 hours
Jim Westbury.....2500 hours

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

4 Retiree River Ramble
Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 60 & up) Enjoy a leisurely hike along with other seniors to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom CA. This month we will be hiking a portion of the Confluence Trail and looking for indigo buntings, dickcissels, meadowlarks, goldfinches and shorebirds in the wetland areas. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin April 20.)

6 Babes in the Woods
Friday 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(Ages Birth-3) It's never too early to begin exploring nature! Spring is the perfect time for using our senses as we discover the natural wonders around us. Join us for a stroller walk to find fascinating plants and animals. Older siblings are also welcome. *Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin April 22.)

7 Hook, Line & Sinker
Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12) Looking for a way to have fun outdoors? Join us to get hooked on fishing. Basic fishing instruction, safety and fish identification will be covered. No experience necessary! All equipment and bait will be provided or you may bring your own. This program will take place at Bellefontaine Conservation Area, located at Hwy 367 and I-270, by the Missouri Veterans' Home. *Volunteer Naturalist: GT Templeton.* (Reservations begin April 22.)



14 Wildflower Walk
Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Come explore and identify the blooming beauties of Columbia Bottom! This is a great time to catch a look at the brilliant displays of spring wildflowers. To see what flora thrives here, join us for a leisurely hike and family flower fun. *Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin April 29.)

14 Bike Hike: Discover the Treasure
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 12 & up) Join us for a leisurely bike ride through Columbia Bottom to discover the many treasures it has to offer. Participants will learn about the mosaic of floodplain habitats that make up Columbia Bottom. To participate, you must be able to bike 5 miles on a level, paved road plus another 5 miles on the levee trail. Bike helmets are required for this program. *Volunteer Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin April 29.)



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63122
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

26 Butterflies Are Insects, Too!
Thursday 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Spring and summer are great times to discover the magical colors of the elusive butterfly. Learn how to identify these beautiful insects and discover how they help the environment. Make your own butterfly field guide and then go exploring to look for this graceful insect. *Naturalist: Jill Welsh.* (Reservations begin May 12.)



11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

2 Hiking at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let’s see which wildflowers, birds and trees we might discover on Broken Ridge Trail. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin April 18.)

7 Scout Discovery Table: Triple Try-Its
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) **Brownies** can complete portions of What’s Out There? Animals #3 and #5; Eco-Explorer #1 and Outdoor Adventurer #5. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

9 Babes in the Woods
Monday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages Birth-3) Introduce nature to the very young through a stroller walk and using their varying senses. *Volunteer Naturalist: Alma Dulz.* (Reservations begin April 25.)

10 Canoeing for Beginners
Tuesday 6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Ages 16 & up) Learn the basics of canoeing techniques, reading a river and safety tips before you hit the water. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom Bayer.* (Reservations begin April 26.)

14 It’s a Blooming Camera Walk
Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 15 & up) There is no better place to be during the spring season than in the woods. Everything is fresh and many forest plants are in bloom. Participants will walk a comfortable trail and photograph springtime surprises along the way. Bring your own camera, film or digital memory card and tripod. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin April 26.)

14 Bear Scouts: Sharing Your World With Wildlife
Saturday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Bear Scouts) Bring your Den to Powder Valley and work on the requirements for this badge. If you complete all the activities scheduled, you will meet all the requirements. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours for a fun day with wildlife. *Staff Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin April 26.)

16 Hiking at Powder Valley
Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let’s see which wildflowers, birds and trees we might discover on Hickory Ridge Trail. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin May 2.)

21 Family Night Out
Saturday 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Pack up Grandma, Grandpa and the kids for an early evening stroll at Emmenegger Nature Park. We’ll see what we can find. Meet at the bridge. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin May 6.)

21 An Evening at Emmy
Saturday 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
(Adults) The full moon is just two evenings away. Join us for a walk at Emmenegger Nature Park and discover what the moonlight might reveal. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin May 6.)


22 Canoeing for Beginners
Sunday 1 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
(Ages 16 & up) Learn the basics of canoeing techniques, reading a river and safety tips before you hit the water. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom Bayer.* (Reservations begin May 6.)

HOMESCHOOL AT HENGES
23 Avian Adaptations
Monday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) It’s a bird! It’s a plane! Wait, it is a bird! Explore bird adaptations through hands-on activities that illustrate avian use of beaks, feet and wings. Students also hone their observation skills while learning to use a field guide. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin May 9.)

HOMESCHOOL AT POWDER VALLEY
24 Avian Adaptations
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) It’s a bird! It’s a plane! Wait, it is a bird! Explore bird adaptations through hands-on activities that illustrate avian use of beaks, feet and wings. Students also hone their observation skills while learning to use a field guide. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin May 10.)

24 Bird Buddies
Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Learn what makes a bird a bird through hands-on activities, mimicry and song. Make and take your own pair of “binoculars” for bird watching. *Staff Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin May 10.)

Wild Heart
Saturday, May 14
2 p.m.



Bringing the heart of the wild...to the heart of a child!

Come sing along with Jan and George Syrigos, creators of *Critter Rock*, as they introduce their latest CD, *Wild Heart*. Their music is all original and suitable for the young, as well as the young at heart. Sing songs like “Armadillo Alphabet,” “Circle Cycle” and “Buzzy Wuzzy,” plus hear other tunes including “Spider Mama,” “Fishin’ No More Wishin” and “Prairie Dance.”

Reservations are required and will begin on April 30.

Nature and Arts
Lloyd and Ann Grotjan
Awe Natural

Powder Valley proudly welcomes the return of Awe Natural, which features the works of Lloyd and Ann Grotjan. Pottery, sculpture, photography and music are the principal media used to celebrate the form and function of the natural world. The May Hallway Exhibit will feature some of Ann’s pottery and sculptures in the hallway display case and Lloyd’s nature photography on the hallway walls. Don’t miss this exhibit, Lloyd’s concert and Ann’s demonstration.

Lloyd Grotjan Concert
Nature in Music and Photography
Friday, May 20
7 p.m.
Nature Center Auditorium

Take a mini-vacation for the spirit with professional photographer and musician Lloyd Grotjan. Sit back and watch as Lloyd combines the best of his 20 plus years of photography of wildlife, wildflowers, savannas, forests and sweeping vistas with his music from the CD releases *Songs from the Ozark Plateau* and *Twelve Moons*. Performing on various acoustic instruments while immersed in dissolving color images, Lloyd’s program is a feast of sight, sound, color and feeling.

Lloyd’s photography has appeared in numerous magazines including *The Smithsonian*, *Missouri Life* and *The Conservationist*; and on the covers or in the books *Images of St Louis*, *Colorful Missouri* and *Images of Missouri*. His work has been used in calendars, directories and various publications and his work for the National Park Service is on permanent file with the Library of Congress. As a musician he has been in *Guitar Player* Magazine.

(Reservations begin May 6.)

Ann Grotjan, Potter and Sculptor
Demonstration
Saturday, May 21
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Nature Center Lower Level

Join potter and sculptor Ann Grotjan as she turns an ordinary thrown vessel into a true piece of art. Ann has experience with many types of media. She has worked in clay, bronze, hydrastone, resin and paper. Presently, Ann has settled on stoneware as her favorite medium. Most of her work begins on the potter’s wheel before it is incised, altered and decorated. She frequently uses the color of the clay body as a design element. The inspiration for Ann’s work is generally organic, whether it is abstract or realistic. “It might be the curve of a lizard’s body and tail, or the flight of a soaring hawk.”

Ann will be demonstrating how she transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary using intricate carving, piercing or sculpting on the surface of the thrown pot. Several of her finished pieces will be on display and for purchase the day of the demonstration.

(No reservations necessary.)

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Warene Anderson.....3600 hours	Shirley Pearlstone.....1000 hours	Neva Wasson.....4100 hours
Tom Bayer.....900 hours	Mary Piotraschke.....1700 hours	David Winkler.....1200 hours